



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** April 6, 2020

Dear Concerned Reader,

On April 6, 2020; I made a decision to implement the Loco Wildfire Resiliency project on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. This project will reduce hazardous fuel levels by thinning (to produce commercial or precommercial products) and salvage for wildfire reduction. Specifically, I have decided to commercially and precommercially thin from below about 2,832 acres to a target basal area of 40 ft<sup>2</sup> per acre with an acceptable range of 40 ft<sup>2</sup> to 60 ft<sup>2</sup> on average. I am also authorizing the harvest of all standing dead trees within USFS R6 utilization standards except as needed for other resource needs.

The decision is consistent with the Malheur National Forest Plan standards and is authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-171) (2018 Omnibus Bill), which amended Title VI of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) (16 U.S.C. 6591 et seq.) to add Section 605. Section 605 establishes a categorical exclusion for hazardous fuels reduction projects in designated areas on National Forest System lands. A hazardous fuels reduction project that may be categorically excluded under this authority is a project that is designed to maximize the retention of old-growth and large trees, to the extent that the trees promote stands that are resilient to insects and disease, and reduce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience to wildfires (HFRA, Sections 605(b)(1)(A)).

The Loco Project was scoped for 21 days on February 12, 2020. Seven comment letters or emails and three phone calls were received. The Decision Memo, enclosed, documents how I addressed scoping comments.

My decision is not subject to administrative appeal under the public review and comment procedures pursuant to Forest Service regulations at Title 36, Part 215.12 because on January 17, 2014, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-76). My decision is subject to implementation pursuant to Forest Service regulations at Title 36, Part 215. Implementation may occur immediately following the date of the Decision Memo (36 CFR 215.9(c)(1)).

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Decision Memo. For further information, or to request a copy of the analysis file, contact Lori Bailey or Melissa Ward, Emigrant Creek Ranger District, 265 Hwy. 20 S., Hines, OR 97738, (541) 573-4300; or email us at: [comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur-emigrantcreek@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur-emigrantcreek@fs.fed.us). The Decision Memo and analysis file are available on the Malheur National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57291>.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Malheur National Forest.

Sincerely,

JOSHUA GILES  
District Ranger

Enclosure

